<u>Amendments to the Specification</u>

Please replace the paragraph on Page 18, lines 4 - 20 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- In this fourth preferred embodiment, when the shopper presents his items 930 for purchase (Block [[800]] 1000), the correlator is generated (Block 1010) and written (Block 1020) by the RFID writer 920 into the RFID tag of each purchased item 930. When the shopper exits the premises, as depicted in Figs. 9B and 10B, the merchandise 950 he is carrying passes an RFID reader 960 (Block 1050) which non-intrusively reads the correlators from the RFID tags (Block 1060). Now, however, a correlator comparing component 980 (which may be embodied within the RFID reader 960) makes a comparison (Block 1070) among the correlators of the various items. If the correlators all match each other (Block 1080), then this is not a theft (Block 1085). If any correlators are different, however, then a database 970 is preferably consulted to determine whether a non-matching correlator reflects a previous purchase (Block 1090). If so, then the shopper may have purchased this item from the retailer on an earlier date. For example, if the non-matching correlator is stored in the RFID tag of a clothing article which the shopper previously purchased from this retailer and is now wearing in the retailer's store, this is not a theft. However, if the RFID tag indicates that the item is from this retailer's inventory but no previous purchase of this item is recorded (including a current purchase which would have written a matching correlator in the item's RFID tag), then this is potentially an attempted theft (Block 1095) and the alarm unit 990 is preferably triggered. --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 23, lines 1 - 19 with the following marked-up replacement

Serial No. 10/666,287   -2-   RSW920030196US1

paragraph:

— Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 09/790,104 (filed on Feb. 21, 2001), entitled "Method to Address Security and Privacy Issues of the Use of RFID Systems to Track Consumer Products", which was briefly discussed above, discloses techniques to prevent global tracking of people and the items they have purchased containing RFID tags, in addition to techniques for using RFID technology to prevent tampering of product information stored in RFID tags and to prevent pricing mistakes made at the point of sale. Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 09/847,889 (filed on May 3, 2001), entitled "Identification and Tracking of Persons Using RFID-Tagged Items", discloses techniques for using RFID technology to identify or characterize people, based on the RFID tags present in items being carried by that person at a point in time. If a prior-purchase database is provided with information about which person bought particular uniquely-identified items in the past, then the RFID tags may be used to locate information in the database that will identify the person currently carrying the items. Otherwise, the person can be characterized based upon the types of items he is currently carrying (as determined by reading the RFID tags of the items). Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application ~~10/~~ ~~(filed~~ 10/612,251 (filed on July 2, 2003), entitled "Object Matching via RFID", discloses techniques for using RFID technology to track and match objects, when the RFID tags of these objects have been programmed with data suitable for indicating that the items are in association with one another. These commonly-assigned inventions are hereby incorporated herein by reference as if set forth fully. —

Serial No. 10/666,287   -3-   RSW920030196US1